(b) the measures taken to rehabilitate them;

(c) the number of workers given financial assistance so far;

(d) whether lakhs of workers have been denied financial assistance;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the measures taken to ensure assistance to each and every worker rendered jobless?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) As per records, during the period October, 2004 to September, 2009, 77 cotton/man made fibre textile mills (Non SSI) were closed down. These mills had 22927 workers on their role.

(b) Government of India under Textile Workers Rehabilitation Fund Scheme (TWRFS) provides interim relief to the textile workers rendered unemployed as a consequence of permanent closure of any particular portion or entire textile unit. Assistance under the Scheme is payable to eligible workers only for the purpose of enabling them to settle in another employment. Any worker is eligible provided he/she is engaged in a closed textile unit on the date of its closure continuously for five years or more and earning a wage equivalent of Rs. 2500 per month or less for the mills closed between 6.6.1985 to 1.4.1993 and Rs. 3500 or less thereafter. They should be contributing to the Provident Fund maintained by the Regional Provident Fund Commissioner of the State concerned.

(c) to (e) Since inception of the Scheme, a total of 103755 workers out of 132956 workers on rolls have been given financial assistance till 31.10.2009 as per the funds available under the Scheme.

(f) Constant efforts were/are made by the Government to provide relief to displaced workers of closed textile mills at an early date by organizing various Grievances Redressal Meetings, which were/are presided over by the Textiles Minister/Textiles Commissioner/Joint Textiles Commissioner etc. Such meetings had/have the representatives from various State/Central Government Departments/Organisations/Labour Associations and from workers.

Obsolete technology in textile industry

†2304. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian textile industry is lagging behind in export competition with technology turning obsolete in Indian textile industry;

(b) the fall in production and export therefrom in 2008-09 as against last year;

(c) whether any road map has been prepared for upgradation of technology;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) if so, by when the entire industry will be equipped with state-of-the-art technology; and

(e) whether Government will consider a plan to discourage those who does not upgrade technology?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) As per the latest Index of Industrial Production (IIP), textiles production is strong compared to the entire industry. IIP registered a growth of 5.79%, whereas production of textile products (including apparel) recorded a growth of 9.47% and that of wool, silk and man-made textiles registered a growth of 11.88% during April-August, 2009 over the same period in 2008

As per Director General, Commercial Intelligence and Statistics' data, textiles exports have declined by 20.41% in dollar terms during the period April-June 2009 over corresponding period of previous year, which is attributable to recession conditions in major economies world-wide.

(c) and (d) The Government commissioned Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) for modernization and technology upgradation with effect from 01.4.1999 and in its operational life span has propelled investment of more than Rs. 1,79,835 crores upto 30.6.2009. In fact, the allocation for 2007-08 under TUFS was Rs. 1090 crore which has been enhanced to Rs. 2890 crore in 2009-10.

(e) The Government is not considering any such action.

Encouraging workers to manufacture jute

2305. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is encouraging the workers to manufacture jute and other bags;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the incentives announced for the Eleventh Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) The Government has launched "**Jute Technology Mission (JTM)" with effect from 2007-08, spanning a period of 5 years (Eleventh five Year Plan Period)**, for overall development of the Jute Industry in the country and promotion of jute and jute products at home and abroad.

Mini Mission IV of JTM has 4 Scheme Components in place for modernization of organized jute mills and 5 Scheme components for promotion of jute diversified products, with a total outlay of Rs. 242 crores for the **total Mission period (5 years)**.

The Scheme "Training of Workers and Supervisors" provides for training of workers in Jute Mills. The trained Jute Mill personnel stand engaged in **production of different jute products, including jute bags**.